

Monthly Progress Report #5

For Montana Project #8191

Research in Support of Container/Trailer on Flatcar in Intermodal Service on Montana's Class 1 Railroads RFP# 308128 RP

Reporting Period: October 1, 2007 – October 31, 2007

Submitted by:
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Submitted to:

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Task 0: Project Management

The Kick-off meeting for the project was held on June 13, 2007. This task has been completed.

Task 1: Literature Review and Original Research (3.2.1.1)

Additional data sources were identified to provide comparative estimates for export trade volumes.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Tabulate export product volumes by region.

Task 2: Identification of Users by Geographic Region (3.2.1.1.1)

Due to the poor electronic survey response, we will mail 250 surveys to potential export users in Montana. A list is being developed of survey recipients.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Mail survey to 250 potential shippers.

Task 3: A Terminal Profile (3.2.1.1.2)

This task was begun by looking at initial responses and identifying the profile of the terminals which originally existed in Montana. Steamship operators were contacted to identify how they load Montana products in their containers. Several terminal service maps were specific carriers were collected. Information about the site at the Port of Montana and Billings Intermodal terminal was collected. Contacted UP West Region Sales Director about their regional activities and potential shipper interest.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Attend Intermodal Expo and talk with terminal operators about small terminal operations.

Task 4: Develop Montana Shipper Cost Model ((3.2.1.1.3)

A matrix of truck costs from terminal areas to various export ports was developed.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Discuss drayage operations with representatives at the Intermodal Expo who might serve Montana terminals.

Task 5: Document Current Intermodal Activities (3.2.1.1.4)

Continued calling West Coast Ports and container operators about interest in export operations. Identified two intermodal lift units for costing purposes which might be relocated to a prospective terminal.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Discuss grain shipping patterns with Grain Traders
- Attend Intermodal Expo to discuss project with potential users.

Task 6: Exploration of Railroad Incentives (3.2.1.1.5)

Met with BNSF to discuss interest and preliminary project findings. Incentives and operational parameters were discussed.

Action Items for Next Month:

- Set up meetings with UP about survey findings and cost model information.

Task 7: Intermodal Service Recommendation (3.2.1.2)

Draft report to be sent for review February, 2008

Final report and Project Summary Report to be completed by March 1, 2008

Summary of Expenditures

Table 1 summarizes the project costs through September 30, 2007. October 2007 cost activities amounted to \$14,042.02 leaving \$21,964.15 for the remainder of the project.

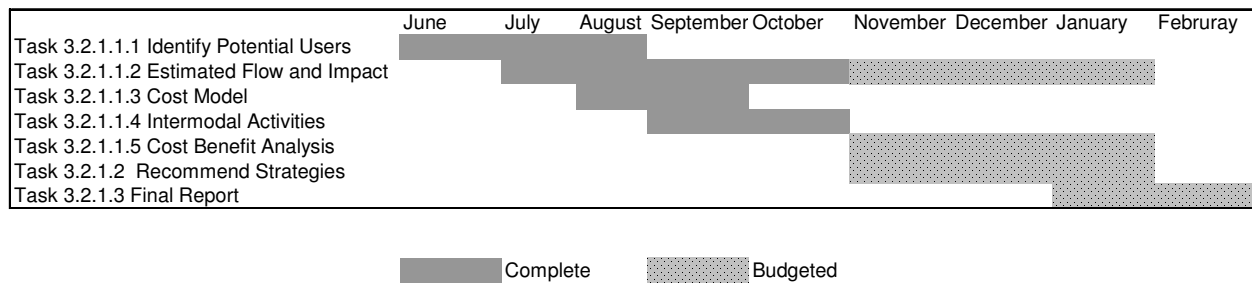
TABLE 1. Summary of Expenditures (June 1, 2007 – October 31, 2007)

Budget Category	Budgeted Funds	Spent This Period	Total Spent	Total Remaining
Labor	\$29,428.25	\$6,000.00	\$26,160.00	\$3,268.25
Subcontract (Direct and Indirect Costs)*	\$19,387.50	\$1,302.00	\$8,796.00	\$10,591.50
Travel	\$4,800.00	589.54	\$2,053.69	\$2,746.31
Operatons/Communi	\$1,000.00	\$150.48	\$730.16	\$269.84
Indirect	\$29,428.25	\$6,000.00	\$24,340.00	\$5,088.25
Total	\$84,044.00	\$14,042.02	\$62,079.85	\$21,964.15
* reduced 50 hours from WTI and moves to PFLLC (\$3816.50)				

Project Schedule Summary

A summary of the project status is shown in Figure 1. The project has been underway for five months. Due to a poor response from the electronic survey the team will post 250 surveys to targeted large exporters.

FIGURE 1: Project Schedule with Completed Work



Hours Spent in September by Task Break Down

October	Hours By Task	PI Ogard Hours	WTI Stephens Hours	WTI Cole Hours
Task 3.2.1	Kick Off Meeting			
Task 3.2.1.1	Literature Review/Research			
Task 3.2.1.1.1	Identify Potential Users			
Task 3.2.1.1.2	Terminal Profile	20		8
Task 3.2.1.1.3	Cost Model			
Task 3.2.1.1.4	Intermodal Activities			
Task 3.2.1.1.5	Cost Benefit Analysis			
Task 3.2.1.2	Recommend Strategies	20		
October		40	0	8